

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 159

Introduced by Assembly Members Gorell and Ma

June 11, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 159—Relative to postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 159, as introduced, Gorell. Postsecondary education: military veterans.

This measure encourages California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California to consider and adopt the American Council on Education credit recommendations to give veterans due credit for their military experience.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, There are over 1.4 million Americans actively
2 serving in the Armed Forces at home and abroad; and
3 WHEREAS, There are over two million veterans returning from
4 conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan; and
5 WHEREAS, Veterans represent a broad spectrum of our society
6 that include older students with work and family responsibilities,
7 students whose college entry has been delayed, first-generation
8 students, and students with lower and middle socioeconomic
9 statuses; and
10 WHEREAS, Veterans returning from overseas combat encounter
11 many obstacles to reentering society such as posttraumatic stress
12 disorder, depression, anxiety, and other medical conditions; and

1 WHEREAS, Veterans have gained valuable skills through their
2 military training and combat experience; and

3 WHEREAS, Some of this experience is firsthand experience in
4 much needed professions such as emergency medicine, engineering,
5 and law enforcement; and

6 WHEREAS, The G.I. Bill gives veterans the ability to enroll in
7 postsecondary education courses after returning from service; and

8 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States enacted the
9 Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (Public
10 Law 110-252) to encourage returning veterans to attain a college
11 education by covering the cost of tuition and providing other
12 incentives; and

13 WHEREAS, The American Council on Education credit
14 recommendations are strong indicators of military experience and
15 knowledge acquired, and that experience should be counted toward
16 college credit; and

17 WHEREAS, More than 2,300 colleges and universities recognize
18 the American Council on Education endorsed transcripts as official
19 documentation of military experiences and accurate records of
20 applicable American Council on Education credit
21 recommendations; and

22 WHEREAS, Education has historically been viewed as the great
23 equalizer; and

24 WHEREAS, The California State Assembly and Senate value
25 military service; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
27 *thereof concurring*, That California Community Colleges, the
28 California State University, and the University of California are
29 encouraged to consider and adopt the American Council on
30 Education credit recommendations to give veterans due credit for
31 their military experience, which will result in more veterans
32 graduating from a public postsecondary education institution, and
33 will help ensure the success of our veterans at our public
34 postsecondary education institutions; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
36 of this resolution to the authors for appropriate distribution.

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